

THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL

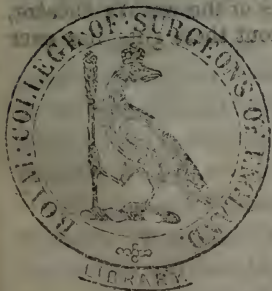
Medical School, London,

THE DEFECTS OF THAT INSTITUTION,

AND

EDWARD SMITH, M.D., LL.B., B.A. LOND.

FELLOW (BY EXAM.) OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND,
HON. SECRETARY OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,
LECTURER ON ANATOMY AT THE CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, ETC.



PRESENTED
by the
AUTHOR.

LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, 46, PRINCES-STREET, SOHO.

1853.

THE MEDICAL COMMISSION

CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL

Official School, London.

Notes

THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION
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1864

EDWARD SMITH, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.

LECTURER ON THE HISTORY AND THEORY OF THE DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, AND ON THE PATHOLOGY OF THE BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA, AND EMPHYSEMA.

RECEIVED
10
AUGUST

REVISED

THE MEDICAL COMMISSION

1864



ADDRESS.

IN presenting to the Governors of the Charing Cross Hospital and to the Lecturers in the Metropolitan Medical Schools a statement of the ungentlemanly and injurious course of conduct pursued by the authorities of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and of the evils which attend upon the present management of that institution, I deem it a duty to premise the reasons which have induced me to take this step.

The first reason is a desire to clear my own reputation from the aspersions which have been thrown over it; and the second, to expose to public reprobation a course of conduct which has been highly injurious to the school, in the hope of preventing its subsequent renewal. The first reason might have been satisfied by the expression of opinions of those who are already in possession of the facts of this case, and who were previously acquainted with the peculiarities in the management of the Institution; and the more so when nearly the whole School is placed in open hostility to the governing body, when the Press has seconded our efforts to place the blame upon the proper parties, and when the glaring defects in the Institution have recently called for several reports, for a special inspection, and, at length, for a withdrawal of the recognition of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. By these various modes my character has been defended, and the injustice which has been exercised towards me has been signally avenged. But the latter reason demands a more public scrutiny, since by that alone can its demerits be fairly determined and the removal of the cause of it effected.

It would have been far more consistent with my comfort and sense of propriety to have avoided this step; but a man holding any public appointment owes something to his position and to his *confrères*, and it is only by a public exposure that evil deeds meet with their full reward.

Having vainly endeavoured to obtain from the authorities of the School a withdrawal of their calumnious accusation, and the possession of a copy of the regulations under which I entered upon the duties of the anatomical department (see Letters, Nos. 15 to 27), I appeal to the Governors of the Hospital, to whose opinions I presume this governing body is, in some little degree at least, amenable; and beg further that they will investigate the circumstances attend-

ing the origin of the following statement, and ascertain the validity or invalidity of the notice served upon me. The question of reinstatement is dependent upon that of the validity of the notice, and the interest of it to myself and others upon the probability of a radical reform being speedily effected.

In order to show that a radical reform is needed, I beg to lay before the Governors the following statement of facts.

1st.—The limited number and unchanging character of the governing body is in direct disaccord with the spirit of the times, and the practice in the best medical schools. It tends to give an exaltation to those who govern not warranted by their personal character, their professional and scientific attainments, or the relative position of the Institution which they govern; and in an equal degree it tends to degrade the other lecturers and officers of the School,—men, it may be, of greater mark than their governors,—who by the present constitution are placed in a more dependent and less dignified position than their pupils. It further admits a system of favouritism, oppression, and double dealing, which is injudicious, and gives an advantage in the eyes of the pupils to those who are thus the constituted governors,—an advantage which may be, and is, used to the direct injury of their colleagues.

2nd.—The mode in which this governing body has performed its duties is highly unsatisfactory.

It has called, for the second time, for the withdrawal of the recognition of the Royal College of Surgeons,—a disgrace which a professional man, alone, can fully feel; and it has introduced such utter disorganisation into the School that it has deemed it necessary to give a written intimation to the students of its readiness to return a proportion of the fees to those who desire to complete their education elsewhere.

One of the physicians, the Director, whilst incapacitated from doing the duty of his office still retains his position, although his beds are assigned to the care of the assistant-physician, a gentleman who, though confessedly far nearer the mark than the physician, is still, as for many years past, nominally the *assistant*-physician, and is thus excluded from a seat in the medical committee.

There are no assistant-surgeons, and thus the care of the out-patients very much devolves upon the house-surgeon, or “house-pupil,” as he now is called, a gentleman who is only a second year’s student, and therefore unqualified. The late house-surgeon (or pupil), who was also unqualified, was required to take, nearly the sole charge of Mr. Hancock’s out-patients for the long space of a month at one time.

One of the surgeons, a most gentlemanly and high-minded man,

is not admitted to a seat in this governing body, although by its constitution he is entitled to that distinction.

The building is black, dirty, and dismal, both on the inside and outside, and on the outside is apparently falling to pieces. The apartments set apart for the officers of the Hospital are utterly unworthy of a public institution, with the exception, however, of the Director's house, which is, I believe, large and commodious, free of rent and taxes, without charge for water, gas, and partial repairs.

The various officers or sub-officers, nurses, and porters, are most miserably underpaid and treated with contumely. The poor porter who has charge of the Dissecting-room, the Theatre, and Museum, who carries all the coals up the stairs, who waits upon the lecturers when lecturing, and who runs day after day at intervals over London, discharging the Director's missives, and laying his nets for subscribers, had for eighteen months the wretched stipend of 1s. 6d. per day, without board (wholly or partial) or lodgings, and whose other perquisites, including gratuities, may average about 2s. per week yearly. For some months past his salary has been raised to 2s. per day, a most paltry sum for a trustworthy married man,—one to whom much is confided, and from whom much is expected.

The late clerk of the Hospital, a gentleman who did the duties of secretary, and in great part, of clerk, of steward, of registrar of the School, and of clerk to the medical committee, received but £40 per year, with miserable board and lodging, until a few months before he left the Hospital, when his salary was increased to £50 per year.

The sisters and the nurses receive respectively £3 and £2 5s. per month, or under 2s. and 1s. 6d. per day, *without board*, but with lodging, washing, and one-twelfth of a pint of milk twice a day. In reference to this injudicious economy it has been remarked: "Is not such pay enough to *compel* them to act unjustly towards the patients? The meat is not weighed after it is cooked. Will one of these sisters, or nurses, (or rather, can she afford to) pay for a dinner, while she can, by a little stealth, get one out of the patients?" Their number, also, is so inadequate, that when the Hospital beds are fully occupied, there are but two day-nurses to 56 patients, and only one night-nurse to that large number. They are meanly clad, and have the air of char-women; and yet the sisters have so much authority given to them, that they are forbidden to change the diet or to give any extras to the patients on the directions of the house-surgeon, although the surgeon may not attend for two or more days!

The diet of the patients is so insufficient that one pound of uncooked meat, even of mutton chops, suffices for three patients on full

diet. This, with other parts of the management, has given origin in the neighbourhood to certain epithets, and prevents the introduction of good cases into the Hospital.

There is not an amputating knife in the place,—so that if it were necessary to perform an amputation in the night, the instrument-maker must be roused from his bed. The house-surgeon was directed to make splints out of pieces of board, for the treatment of fractures—even of fractured thighs. Recently there were not three cradles in the whole Hospital fit for use—everything broken, and going to ruin. The two fracture beds belonging to the Institution are, or were, out of repair, so that a patient was lying waiting for such a bed for several days. Another patient, on recovering from fractured leg, was detained in the Hospital for three weeks, in want of a pair of crutches.

The arrangements in respect of the School are most defective. The Museum is most inadequately supplied with illustrations for anatomy; there is but one skeleton, and that is falling to pieces. There is not a disarticulate head, an entire detached foot or hand, or models of any kind, except four of the brain. There are no ligaments belonging to the Hospital, since the Director refuses to supply pots and preserving solution. There are no illustrations from comparative anatomy. There are no injected preparations. The preparations in spirit are spoiling for want of more spirit, and the porter is directed to shake the spirit over them.

The Lecturer must find his own box for his diagrams, and is not furnished, in the dissecting-room, with a locker in which to place his apron and instruments, unless he deposit 2s. 6d. for the use of a key, as is required from the pupils. The dissecting-room is at the top of the Hospital, and so far removed from the theatre, that the subjects cannot be carried thither; and no provision, in the way of benches, is made for the accommodation of the students attending the demonstration. Slips of wood were needed in the dissecting-room walls, to which diagrams might be attached, but the Director refused to have them inserted until the next session.

The teaching in the School is radically defective. The Lecturers and officers, who are not upon the Medical Committee, take but little interest in the Institution; they do their duty, turn on their heel, and are not seen again; whilst the Medical Committee like to go on in the good old way pursued by them in days of yore, and openly discountenance the studies of modern origin.

Moreover, in two of the principal classes in the School, the most ribald and disgusting allusions are of common occurrence,—so much so as to cause the utmost detestation on the part of the married men who have the misfortune to listen to them.

The diagrams, bones, skeletons, and preparations in the Museum are locked up, so that a student must hunt up the porter in order to study them; and when the porter is on his marauding expeditions into the neighbourhood round about, this would be of little avail.

The students are treated with disdain; and so little are their feelings cared for, that one of them being ill in the Hospital, was refused the comfort of a private ward, and compelled to occupy the common ward, although a private ward was disengaged, and although even the officers of the Hospital interceded with the Director for him.

The Lecturer's income is most meanly curtailed; not less than four-tenths of all his fees being withheld from him, viz., one-tenth for the Registrar, two-tenths for the Hospital, and one-tenth for current expenses; and, moreover, no account is rendered to him, so that he is entirely at the mercy, and subject to the mistakes, of the Director.

The only exception to all this oppression is the Director,—who exercises paramount, almost sole, authority over surgeons, physicians, lecturers, officers, nurses, porters, and servants, and who with the clerk, and sometimes the further addition of the chaplain, constitutes, for three-fifths of the whole year, that highly important body, the “Weekly Board of Management;” and then the form of entry runs, “Present,—the Rev. Mr. Edouart, the Director, and Medical Officers,” and the proceedings are recorded as having been carried or ordered unanimously. He receives as perquisites,—house-residence, with its appendages (already referred to); his tenths as Registrar of the School, which last year exceeded £100, with his fees as Physician to the Hospital, and a copy of the *Times*, which he sends to his son in the afternoon; and so careful is he that the Hospital should have its due, that he applies to the clerk for the usual shilling gratuity to be given to the newspaper-boy at Christmas,—an item which is duly entered into the accounts! All this is very proper, and no more than is his due for all the attention and anxiety which for many years he has given to the Hospital. Let the other officials and sub-officials be remunerated in the like proportion.

Such was the condition of this Hospital and School a few weeks ago; and no rumour of any improvement has as yet got abroad. Some of my colleagues even will now become acquainted with a few of these facts for the first time, since the management of the Institution is so shrouded in secrecy, and every step taken so stealthily, that the truth is arrived at only by painful investigation. This list does not contain a tithe of the complaints which those well acquainted with the internal working of the Institution

could adduce; but I have not been able to penetrate the mystery further. Yet surely enough has been exhibited to arouse the indignation of the Governors, and to excite them to the work of reformation.

1st. Let the governing body of the School be composed of all the officers and lecturers united, so that all may be placed on an equality, and any intolerant influence discountenanced.

2. Let the whole Institution be managed on a more generous plan—the salaries and emoluments increased—the deductions diminished—the necessary appliances multiplied—the teaching rendered more in accord with the requirements of the day—and all the officers, teachers, and pupils, treated as gentlemen.

It is a fact of no mean significance, that the Hospital has lost a large proportion of the supporters living in its neighbourhood, and now mainly depends for its support upon the benevolence of those who live at a distance.

I call upon my *confrères*, the teachers in the Metropolitan Medical Schools, to bear witness to this heartless attempt to trample upon one of their body, and to blast his reputation and prospects by a false charge of inefficiency, put forward to hide a personal attack. I call upon them, in connexion with the officers of their hospitals, to say if the assumed pre-eminence of the Metropolitan Institutions could be supported, should such a condition of things as that now laid before them be permitted to continue and increase.

STATEMENT.

THE following correspondence has taken place between the governing body of the Charing-cross Hospital Medical School and myself, as the Lecturer on Anatomy in that School. This body is known as the "Medical Committee," and is composed of four members; viz., the Consulting Physician, Dr. Shearman, an aged and very honourable member of the profession; Dr. Golding, the Director, and, in effect, sole Manager of the Hospital and Registrar of the School; with Dr. Chowne and Mr. Hancock, officers of the Hospital, and Lecturers in the School. The first-named gentleman rarely visits the Hospital, and thus the duties of the Medical Committee devolve chiefly (it would be proper to say almost exclusively) upon the other members of that body. No other officer or lecturer whatever has any vote or voice in the management of the Institution. No person is present during their discussions; not even the clerk of the Hospital, who is employed to transcribe the minutes of their proceedings from rough drafts, into the Medical Committee Minute-book. It is also a body which apparently does not admit of change, since it has never seen a change; and at this day, as fifteen years ago, has for its centre the same Dr. Golding, and for its majority two to one.

I entered the School in May, 1851, as Lecturer on Botany, and so continued until the end of the summer session of 1852, when, on October 4th, I was transferred to the Chair of Surgical and Descriptive Anatomy. I have therefore lectured during two sessions on Botany, and one session on Anatomy.

The subject-matter of the correspondence is contained in the First Letter, and consists of a charge of inefficiency as Teacher on Anatomy; and the issue of the whole is a so-called notice given by them to me to leave the School. This charge is based upon two communications received by the Medical Committee: one, the letter of one of the free students, (of whom there were no less than eighteen who received gratuitous education in the School, not as a reward for proficiency, but for certain purposes of the Medical Committee,) and a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the students, on March 24, 1853. It is therefore based upon certain alleged wishes of the students.

Students can be regarded as but imperfect judges of the efficiency of their teachers; but since in this instance they were the only parties who had had any opportunity afforded to them of forming a judgment, it was necessary that the charge should appear to have its origin in them, and as the students alone could originate it, so could they alone sustain or remove it. I felt that any denials or affirmations of mine would be without weight, and I had no alternative but to leave this serious matter to be dealt with by the students themselves. They, in defiance of the power possessed by the Medical Committee, have nobly come forward to relieve the School from the odium which has been cast upon it, and myself from the most damaging accusation which an enemy could dictate.

That this charge, and the issue of the correspondence, are utterly repudiated by the students themselves, is proved by the resolutions of that body, published in the *Medical Times* of June 18, 1853,^(a) and by the rare and instructive spectacle of a whole school of about fifty-six students arrayed in stern hostility to this act of the Medical Committee. Contrary to all precedent in the School, the free pupils (viz., those under the direct and painful control of the Medical Committee) have not sufficed to repress the indignant feeling of the paying students; but with the exception of perhaps one or two paying, and of a few of the free students, all are opposed to the governing body. This opposition not only embraces the best men in the School, but every man having any name as an industrious and intelligent student. It is not an opposition composed of the low and factious men, but of the best of all the best men in the School.

This charge, and with it the sincerity or wisdom of the Medical Committee, must therefore be cast aside, and some attempt made to penetrate the mystery which overhangs the subject, in the hope of finding the true grounds on which this attack has been based.

That the charge is, in effect, a false issue purposely raised to hide a personal attack on the part of one member of the Medical Committee, and of an intimate companion of his, one of my colleagues, is highly probable—on the following grounds. With these two exceptions, I have yet to learn that any officer of the Hospital, or any one of my colleagues, is unfriendly to me.

(a) See page 35, of this Pamphlet.

1st. *As to the immediate origin of the Complaint.*—My course terminated on March the 23rd, and up to that moment not the slightest intimation of dissatisfaction had reached me either from the students or the Medical Committee; on the contrary, I had throughout the whole Session received respectful attention from the pupils, and, as the issue shows, gained their esteem, and had been on at least friendly terms with the Medical Committee and my colleagues. On March the 26th, I was privately informed by Mr. Hogg (a gentleman formerly a pupil of the School, and now a friend of Mr. Hancock) that a meeting of the students had been held on March 24th, at which, he said, much dissatisfaction had been expressed. It then appeared that a Mr. Carr, a *protégé* of Mr. Hancock, had called a meeting of seven students, in the Library, at which the Chairman directly accused him of having been sent by the Medical Committee, and at which a memorial to my prejudice was decreed, and signed by a majority of four to three. On this proceeding becoming known, a general meeting of the students was convened on the same day in the Theatre, at which this memorial was destroyed, and their first resolution, as published by the students, was passed—a resolution in which I am requested to use my influence with the Medical Committee to obtain the appointment of a qualified demonstrator, “it being considered by this meeting that the duties of Lecturer and Demonstrator involve too much labour to be efficiently discharged by the same gentleman; but at the same time the continued exertions of Dr. Smith during the past Session are fully recognized.” I obtained a copy of this resolution, and forwarded it to Dr. Chowne, with whom I had had some conversation, but with the reservation, that I did so only in his capacity of a friend and colleague. He acknowledged the limitation; yet, after the lapse of a few days, informed me, that unless I objected, on that day or the following morning he should place it in the hands of the Medical Committee. I replied that he would not be justified in so doing; but two days afterwards, whilst acknowledging the receipt of this note, he stated that he had then given it to the Medical Committee. This act of Dr. Chowne’s is not easily defensible; yet as I knew him to be friendly, I was only too pleased to assume that he had my interest in view. But the issue of the whole affair throws a shadow over the picture, and I fear that there cannot be a doubt but that, wittingly or unwittingly, he thus unfairly became a party in an attempt to strengthen the hands of that body in its attack upon me.

In reference to this transaction the students, in their resolutions, have affirmed that that “resolution was not intended, and ought not to have got into the hands of the Medical Committee.” The opinion gained ground among the students, that this movement had been set on foot by the Medical Committee; and as these meetings within the School had not issued in the desired memorial addressed to the latter body, some efforts were made to induce persons *out of the School* to forward a complaint. This was proposed to, and rejected by Mr. Hogg. At length, however, a letter was forwarded to the Medical Committee by a student, named (as it is understood, and by his own admission) Mr. M’Lean; and this letter became the basis of the first letter of the Medical Committee to myself.

Two circumstances must here be noted. The two men whose names appear as prime movers in the affair—viz., Messrs. Carr and M'Lean, are *free students*—and the one (Mr. Carr) the *protégé* of Mr. Hancock, the other (Mr. M'Lean) the intimate friend and companion of Mr. Canton.

It seems reasonable to assume that, as free students, they would be the last to complain of the quality of that for which they had not paid anything, (and, as the issue shows, not only to complain but to be unsupported by the School in their complaints,) and the more so lest, by giving just cause of offence to the Lecturer, they should receive an unfavourable, yet true, report on their attendance. This, again, is still less probable from the fact, that Mr. Carr had been so remiss in his attendance that I had not seen him six times in the theatre and dissecting-room during the whole session, and who must therefore have known that he merited such a return from me to the Medical Committee as would probably have caused the withdrawal of his tickets. It is most unlikely that these two gentlemen would have taken this prominent position had they not had sufficient grounds for believing that their complaints would be well received by those in authority, or that they would be well defended by some one having influence with those in authority. It must also be borne in mind that the opinion was current in the School that Mr. Carr was an emissary of the Medical Committee.

The friendly relationship existing between these two complaining students and two of my colleagues is highly important, since I shall show grounds for believing that these two colleagues have been the instigators of the movement, and have used these men as their instruments. Mr. Hancock is a member of the Medical Committee. Mr. Canton is the intimate friend of Mr. Hancock, and both are, or rather have been, the most popular men in the School,—a popularity based upon habits of the freest intercourse with the pupils;—two lecturers, therefore, having students at their command, and, as they had reason to hope, the whole School in their leading-strings.

These, then, are the two circumstances on which the Medical Committee have confessedly acted. The latter one is indignantly rejected by the School, and a meaning has been attached to the former one which the students now repudiate.

2nd. *As to the more remote origin of this Movement.*—This has reference mainly to certain circumstances which relate to Mr. Canton and Mr. Hancock, with each other and with myself, and which, contemptible as they are, it is presumed have really led to this disastrous movement. When I was preparing to enter upon the duties of the Anatomical Chair, I was requested by Mr. Canton to purchase his anatomical diagrams, and at length felt it a duty to decline, on the ground of his excessive demand. He asked me 3s. 6d. each for about thirteen dozens, many of them prints and tables, and nearly all unbacked—whilst he subsequently placed them in the hands of a bookseller for sale at about half that price, viz., 15 guineas, and at the same sum offered them, ineffectually, to the Medical Committee of the Hospital. From that time, his bearing towards me changed in a marked manner. Again: some weeks after having entered upon the duties of my chair, I was informed that we could not obtain subjects; for the undertaker who

had hitherto supplied the School with the best subjects, had sent a note to the office of the Inspector of Anatomy, stating that he should decline to supply the Charing-cross Hospital, as his bill for the past year had not been paid. This was a serious matter to the School; and to me especially, upon whom the care of that department devolved: and moreover it was a disgrace which I had to bear, since the defalcations would lie at the door of the Lecturer on Anatomy as such, and not at that of Mr. This or Dr. That, for the name might probably be unknown. Mr. Canton had received from the Clerk of the Hospital the amount paid by the students for the parts, and had left this account unpaid.

On this occasion I sought an interview with Dr. Chowne,—a member of the Medical Committee, and a friend of both parties, and seriously, yet with every possible delicacy, conferred with him, and arranged that he should use my name if necessary, but not otherwise. In a few days the account of the undertaker was called for, and paid.

At the same interview, I referred to another circumstance which reflected discredit upon the School; but since it did not occur within the School, I do not think it would be proper to insert it here. Reference, however, must thus far be made to it, as showing Mr. Hancock and Mr. Canton for the first time associated in these transactions. It would be puerile to argue that I had the right, seeing that it was my duty to decline to purchase the diagrams at a sum twice as great as that for which they were subsequently ineffectually offered, and to relieve the School from the stigma attaching to it in reference to the last-mentioned transactions—even at the cost, great as it has proved, of the personal favour of Mr. Canton!

During the early part of the session, two students complained that their parts, viz., the thorax and abdomen, having been opened and injured, were not in a fit state to be dissected by them. As three-fourths of all our subjects had been opened before we received them, and as I was not acquainted with the rule adopted in the School in reference to this matter, I appealed to the porter, Wait, and learned that the rule was this—that whenever a part could be well injected it was taken by the student. These parts were well injected, and I had no alternative than to carry out the rule. One of the complainants then informed me that he had referred the matter to Mr. Canton, (who was my predecessor in this department,) and was informed that he ought not to take it, and further was advised or directed to carry his complaint to Mr. Hancock, a member of the Medical Committee, and the friend of Mr. Canton; and that he did so carry it, and that Mr. Hancock conveyed it to the Medical Committee, I infer from the fact that, Dr. Golding summoned me into the Board-room, and there hinted that I had done wrong, and that I had so acted for the sake of the value of the two parts. I requested him to call his own porter, and inquire for himself; when he learnt that I had simply carried out their rule, and that under that rule the students ought to take the parts. I complained of this interference with my duties, and suspicion of my conduct. It is not unfair to state that Mr. Canton ought to have referred the complainant back to myself as the proper authority, and left him to make his complaint direct to the Medical Committee, instead of presuming to

form an opinion on an ex parte statement, and of giving one, to a student on a vexed question, to the prejudice of his colleague, and then directing the complainant to his friend in power, Mr. Hancock. Here, again, it will be noticed that Mr. Hancock and Mr. Canton are associated.

On inquiry I have been recently informed that Mr. Hancock has, with his usual familiarity, taken students by the arm, leading them apart from the others into dark corners, and made inquiries from them respecting my conduct and teaching; and on one occasion he is reported to have replied to some adverse statement, "Ah! it is a great pity he ever came into the School." What will be thought of such inquiries and statements from an influential colleague, a member of the Medical Committee, and one professing at the same moment to be on friendly terms with the party he was thus seeking to injure? It was a course of conduct, surely, likely to give origin to complaints if none existed, and to give development and growth to any germs which might then have been formed.

So much in reference to these two colleagues,—one of them a member of the Medical Committee. As it respects the three other members of the Medical Committee, I was upon good and friendly terms with them. Dr. Shearman scarcely ever attends at the Hospital, so that I saw him but once, I believe, during the session; Dr. Chowne I have regarded as an honourable and high-minded friend; and the following is the only occasion in which I was aware of having given the slightest ground for anything unfriendly from Dr. Golding, the Director.

Our fees are paid to us at about Christmas; yet no account of any kind or extent whatever is ever presented to us. I was informed by Mr. Canton that he had received about £56 at the preceding Christmas; and as I had two or three more pupils in my class than he had had, I expected something additional to that sum, when, to my astonishment, I was presented with about £33, and also a very small sum for my last course of Botany. I hesitated in accepting it, and stated that there must be some mistake; and, in such hurried reference as may be made by a person to a large and complicated book, which he had never examined, it appeared that Dr. Golding had cut off my income from the Chair of Botany at the beginning of the last summer session, instead of at the end of it,—and thus, by the examination, I gained an additional £3 to that department. After further correspondence and examination, it appeared that Mr. Canton's excess of receipts was owing to his having been appointed to the lectureship in April, instead of October, as is their professed rule, and thus had received several months' arrears which were really Mr. Hird's, his predecessor's, due. Mr. Canton had received between £80 and £90 for his one Course of Lectures (besides his fee of twenty guineas as Curator of the Museum), a sum exceeding by more than £20 the whole sum paid by the pupils, after deducting the usual four-tenths of the fees; but since that had been to the prejudice of Mr. Hird, and not of myself, I interfered no further. I then suggested that, instead of a successor receiving the uncertain arrears left by his predecessor, as is the rule acted upon in this School, it would be fairer for an

account to be opened with each department, and each lecturer to receive for each course just that amount which had been paid for that course. I subsequently learnt that, since Dr. Wharton Jones's time, this question of accounts had been a sore one in the management of the School, and it may be that I had mercilessly probed an old and still sore wound.

Upon the whole, therefore, I acquit Drs. Shearman, Golding, and Chowne of any *premeditation* to act unfairly, and believe that they have with some honesty taken their parts in this movement, under the impression that general and well-grounded dissatisfaction did exist in the School. I wish I could have it to record that, on observing the hostile attitude of their students, and the indignant denial by the students of the charge which had been fathered upon them, they had openly and manfully broken the cords by which they had been bound, and, as free and independent men, retraced their steps. Perhaps, considering the sacrifice of position and prospects which this step would have implied, it was more than flesh and blood could be expected to do; but still they were bound in some way to make an *amende honorable*. With respect to Mr. Canton and Mr. Hancock, I ask if there are grounds for believing that the hostility began with the former; that he engaged in his service a not unwilling instrument and friend, Mr. Hancock, who, in his turn, made use of his colleagues on the Committee on a false plea, but the only plea which could have been effectual with them; viz., a representation that the character of the School was deeply suffering? Do we not trace Mr. Hancock in that blunderbuss of a letter—the first addressed to me by that body; and then the caution, suavity and stealthiness of the two other members in their subsequent productions? Should not this induce applicants for Lectureships to pause before they commit the keeping of their characters to such a governing body?

In directing further attention to this correspondence, I would beg to point out the following particulars:

1. After making this charge of inefficiency, they formally abandon a part, and virtually nearly the whole of it.

2. They then change their ground, and apparently, yet not openly, take their position on the unpalatable nature of my replies, and collect them together, in Letter No. XI., in formidable array; and, in place of ascertaining if my statements were true, and fully justified by the unfounded and violent attack which they had made upon me, and, if found to be true and justifiable, so to acknowledge them, they take my defence as a sufficient ground of complaint against me.

3. A vein of stealthiness and craftiness runs throughout their correspondence; and evasions abound, so gross, palpable, and unjustifiable, that no person in his individual capacity would dare to commit them.

4. They have made a cowardly attack, and an unmanly defence; and in the latter respect I refer to the long and ineffectual correspondence which I have had to obtain a copy of the conditions under which I entered upon my anatomical duties and privileges. (See Letters, Nos. XV. to XXV.)

E. SMITH, M.D.

CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTES. (a)

I.

CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL,
6th April, 1853.

From the Medical Committee (composed of Drs. SHEARMAN, GOLDING, and CHOWNE, and Mr. HANCOCK), to Dr. SMITH, the Lecturer on Anatomy.

SIR,—I am directed, by the Medical Committee, to acquaint you that they have received communications which have given them considerable uneasiness, to the effect that great dissatisfaction exists in the School, as to the manner in which the Anatomical Department has been conducted during the Session which has just drawn to a close;—that no systematic course of anatomy has been given, the teacher having passed irregularly from one subject to another, several parts of great importance being omitted altogether;—that he has been in the habit of coming very late to his Lectures in the morning; and that, when a demonstration has been given in the Dissecting room, there has been no Lecture in the Theatre;—that his attention in the Dissecting-room has been very deficient—from ten minutes to half an hour in the morning being the only time in the day he has attended in that room, assisting the students in their Dissections;—that he has made various anatomical errors, and was obliged to Lecture copiously from notes.

The Committee, feeling it their duty to take the subject into their serious consideration, have directed me to make to you this communication, and to acquaint you that they shall be happy to receive any observations which you may desire to favour them with upon the matter.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

R. J. NEWMAN, Clerk.

This Letter was the first communication on this subject, either verbal or written, which had passed between the Medical Committee and myself. No complaint had been made by them during the six months' session; and throughout the course, at the conclusion of the course, and even at the moment of writing this letter, each member of the Committee openly maintained a friendly intercourse with me. It is based upon a letter received from Mr. M'Lean, (as it is understood,) one of the free students, and is not only unsupported, but indignantly rejected by the School as a whole. It is proper that these facts should be stated, in order to a just appreciation of this remarkable document,—remarkable for a total absence of common civility and feeling, and of an assumption of authority over a colleague by gentlemen, not of the highest eminence—the managers of a school of fourth or fifth-rate position. The expressive but vulgar term "bullying," is the only one which can adequately characterize it; and thence I inferred that the issue of the correspondence thus opened was intended to be my expulsion from the School. As I could not induce myself to reply to it, I forwarded the following note.

II.

16, NORFOLK-TERRACE, WESTBOURNE GROVE,
7th April, 1853.

SIR,—I have received your communication of yesterday's date from the Medical Committee, and as the subject of it is highly important, and requires deliberative action, I must take some days to prepare a reply.

(a) *As this correspondence was not written with a view to publication; some paragraphs have been admitted which I would gladly now have excluded; but I deem it a duty to publish it without mutilation or curtailment.*

In the meantime, I beg to be informed whether these alleged complaints have been laid before the Committee in writing, and if they are in writing, I beg further to be favoured with a copy, and the names of the complainants, so that I may judge how far they are tools in the hands of others, how far they are competent judges, and how far they are trustworthy accusers.

As a Lecturer in the School, and an accused person, I claim this right.

— NEWMAN, Esq.,
Charing Cross Hospital.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. SMITH.

III.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

11th April, 1853.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., and to inform you that the Medical Committee have directed the accompanying acknowledgment of it by them to be addressed to you.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
DR. SMITH.
R. J. NEWMAN.

IV.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

11th April, 1853.

The Medical Committee beg to acknowledge Dr. Smith's letter of the 7th inst., requesting to be furnished with a copy of a communication to the Committee, the substance of which had been transmitted to him by Mr. Newman's letter of the preceding day, and they desire to state, with regard to those parts of the communication which refer to the Lecturer's anatomical errors, and to his being obliged to lecture copiously from notes, it is not their wish to entertain the subject, and they hope that it will not be necessary to do so.

The evasive nature of this reply is worthy of notice, and the more so as it is indicative of a principle of action which will be found to pervade these documents. After rehearsing my desire, as though they intended to accede to it, they suddenly become oblivious to it, and proceed to present a sop, which they hoped would close my eyes to the evasion. They had no objection to receive and to act upon a letter highly and falsely damaging to my professional reputation; but they do not think it expedient to place the accuser and the accused face to face. Common honesty demanded that they should have sent me a copy of this letter and the name of my accuser; but if for secret purposes they did not think proper to do so, they should at least have had the manliness to refuse to accede to my request. Again: what can be thought of the prudence of this body, when we find them, after making a string of accusations, and forwarding them in a most offensive manner, within five days withdrawing two of them without any expression of regret or apology, but with the further insolent intimation, that they hope it will not be necessary to resume them?

V.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,

April 9, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed to acquaint you that at a meeting yesterday, 8th April the Medical Committee received a communication from Dr. Chowne to the effect that he had received from you a note dated April 1st, explanatory of some resolutions having then been recently passed at a meeting of some of the students and presented to you, the nature of which was to the effect that some dissatisfaction existed respecting the duties of the Anatomical Department.

The Committee desire me to state that they would have been glad to have received this communication earlier and direct from yourself, with information of the date of the resolutions and of the circumstances (which the deputation may have acquainted you with) which led to them; together with any observations and suggestions which may have occurred to you as desirable to make to the Committee thereon.

This might probably have superseded the unpleasant duty of requiring information of those students who appear to have taken part in the meeting.

From such of those gentlemen who, being in town, could be promptly met with, inquiries were immediately made, and it appears they all concur in a complaint that very insufficient attendance to assist practical instruction in dissections, has been given by the Teacher of Anatomy in the Dissecting-room during the past Session, and that that insufficiency requires to be provided against in future.

As a complaint of this nature has never before been made whilst Mr. Hancock, Mr. Hird, and Mr. Canton, who consecutively held the same position, and under the same engagements as yourself, the Committee will feel obliged by your having the goodness to acquaint them what has been the extent of your accustomed daily attendance in the Dissecting-room, to afford superintendence and practical instruction in Dissections during the past Session; and also (if you can call it to mind) how many Demonstrations, as well as, or in lieu of Lectures, exclusive of your ordinary attendance at the Dissecting-tables, you have given during the same period.

The Committee direct me to express their regret for the necessity of giving you this trouble, but they feel assured that you will concur with them in seeing the propriety of inquiring into the grounds of complaint in so important a branch of instruction as Practical Anatomy, with a view of ascertaining their validity and adopting measures for the future.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

DR. SMITH.

R. J. NEWMAN.

VI.

16 NORFOLK TERRACE.

April 11, 1853.

SIR,—I have been favoured with another communication through you, the which, so far as I am able to appreciate it, appears to have been dictated in a friendly spirit, and in this respect to differ from your former communication. Believing that I take a right view of it, I at once reply frankly and in faith, that admissions so frankly made will not be used to my prejudice.

The Medical Committee regret that I did not communicate directly to themselves a resolution which I had received from the Chairman of a Meeting of Students, in which that Meeting expressed a desire for the appointment of a qualified Demonstrator, apart from the Lecturer on Anatomy, in the belief that one person could not efficiently discharge the duties of the two offices; and further requested me to use my influence with the Medical Committee to secure such an appointment. I did not forward that resolution and urge its adoption for the following reasons:

1st. So far as I can understand the resolution, (a) it is one directed to myself personally, and not to the Medical Committee, and therefore I believed the proper course to be adopted was that which I selected.

2nd. I was well aware that the appointment of a qualified Demonstrator was regarded as a *necessary* act by the Medical Committee, and that without my interference; and, since I have no voice in that body, I considered that any interference on my part, beyond that of mentioning the matter to Dr. Chowne, would be indelicate until the Medical Committee had taken the initiative.

I have not been anxious for the appointment of a Demonstrator during this Session, since I had reason to know that the Medical Committee would prefer to appoint a gentleman who, during the Session, had been a Student in the School, if a suitable person offered himself. It was requisite that some time should elapse before I could be acquainted with the practical anatomical knowledge of the members of my class.

3rd. One or two weeks, only, have elapsed since the termination of the Session, and I considered that I might be chargeable with indiscreet haste if I had hurried to the Medical Committee to express my wishes and those of the students, knowing well that the all-important preliminary questions of the *precise duties* and *emoluments* of the office must be settled before an appointment could be made. Moreover, believing that the succession of events which have recently occurred were intended to issue in my summary and ignominious ejection from the School, I could not conceive that I had any of that influence which the students in their simplicity had ascribed to me; and I believed that it better became me to reserve my opinions and silently await the issue. As the

(a) See the resolution of the Students in page 35.

Medical Committee has now referred to this resolution, I may state that I fully concur in the wishes of the students, and also with the intentions of the Medical Committee, I believe, respecting this appointment; and further, that my acquaintance with the Anatomical Students has not revealed to me any *qualified* person who is desirous to have the appointment, being at the same time especially fitted for it. I think Mr. Simpson is the most likely to do justice to the appointment, but he cannot be qualified till after another Session has elapsed.

As it respects my attendance in the Dissecting-room, I have endeavoured in all things to conform to the rules in force during the preceding Session, so far as I knew them. I have not remained in the room from 11 A.M. till 4 P.M. since such was not the custom, and since, had I done so, I should have been alone during three hours daily. I learned that the attendance of my predecessor terminated at about 12 o'clock on the average, and that he did not go at once into the room, after the termination of his lecture in the theatre, having other duties, as those connected with the Class, the Museum, &c., which usually occupied some minutes. Occasionally, he remained until about 1 P.M., but that not so much from any necessity existing in his instruction of the pupils as to prosecute certain private Anatomical investigations in which he was engaged. The course which I pursued was as follows:—After my duties in the theatre had terminated I hastened to the Dissecting-room and there carefully examined each part then in process of dissection, questioning the dissector upon his dissection, and directing him in his next steps of dissection, and then I concluded by asking each one if I could be of further service to them. This I did to all, and the time occupied varied with the special stage of the dissections and the number of the dissectors.

The number of students engaged in dissection at any one time has been fewer in this than in former sessions, owing to the deficient supply of subjects—a deficiency not arising from lack of students to take parts, since we have had, at all times during the session, one or more subjects ordered in advance of those supplied, but from a dearth of subjects, such as has been experienced in all the London Schools during the past Session. Some of the larger Schools, as St. Bartholomew's, have remonstrated strongly against this deficient supply, for at the beginning of the Session they could obtain but one subject for their large attendance of students. I have urgently written to the Inspector, and Wait has been to his office fifty times, probably, to express our wants. Moreover, the undertaker who has supplied the School with the best subjects refused for a time to furnish us with further supplies. (a) Thus we have scarcely had two subjects in process of dissection at the same time; and since it will ever be the case that many students purchase parts who very slightly, if at all, dissect them, we have not usually had more than four or five persons dissecting at any one time, and on many occasions I have been alone in the dissecting-room. But it is proper that I should state that whilst we have had fewer dissectors than formerly, the total absence of that disorder which has infested the room in previous sessions has enabled the industrious students to dissect more diligently and profitably. I gave all the attendance which, in my judgment, could benefit the *dissectors*, having in mind the plan adopted in the Schools in which I was educated, and also the fact that, since the students leave the room about 1 P.M. (having practice from 1 to 2½, then lecture to 3½, then again lecture until 4½ P.M.), they had but about one hour in which to carry out my directions. I thought, moreover, in my ignorance, that the attendance met with the approbation, both of the students and the Medical Committee, since not the slightest intimation to the contrary had reached me from either party. (b) Had I known that a desire for longer attendance existed, I would gladly have given it. However, in all my intercourse with students, I have been anxious to avoid useless dallying and familiarity, knowing that, so far as I am concerned, familiarity was apt to breed contempt, and having a strong desire to promote the true interests of the School by inculcating, strictly orderly habits in my personal intercourse with them. I doubt much if the personal dignity of the lectureship would not be lowered if the lecturer were to remain familiarly with the students during five consecutive hours daily, without engaging the attention of the students in objects really useful to them. That no personal motives

(a) *On the ground that he could not obtain payment for those delivered during the preceding session.*

(b) *Could this have been the case with a body of Medical Students, if my conduct in teaching had been generally disapproved; or would the Medical Committee have so acted (believing that such dissatisfaction really existed), except for the purpose of making a more violent and unexpected attack?*

have withheld me from exceeding the amount of attendance given during the preceding Session, may be shown from the fact that I have held special examinations of the candidates for my prizes on two days in the week, at the close of the lecture, the which has usually detained me until about midday, and after this, hour I have attended to my dissecting-room duties. I should not have undertaken this work of supererogation had I not had the welfare of the students at heart, and especially that portion of them on whom care and attention may be profitably bestowed. These examinations have had a very profitable result, as will be seen by the answers for the prize, and I am informed by students, in some sense competent to judge, that amongst the first year's men, are those who have made far more than an average degree of progress. (a) (Progress, however, depends less upon teaching than upon the industry of the pupil.) We carefully re-considered the whole department of Surgical Anatomy, including that of the Regions, of Fractures and Dislocations, and the important subjects of the Ligaments, Ossification, and the Philosophic views of Professor Owen.

On the *Subject of Demonstrations* I appear to have suffered from misapprehension, for since I am regarded by the examining bodies as the Demonstrator, I thought my addresses were called Lectures and Demonstrations indifferently. I was not aware that after I had given a special Lecture in the Theatre I was expected to give another formal one in the Dissecting-room. Whenever any part in process of dissection exhibited anything worthy of remark I referred to it in the hearing, not only of the student to whom it belonged, but to all others then engaged in dissection. All the important regional anatomy I demonstrated more than once during the Session. We have suffered greatly from the inconveniences attaching to the Dissecting-room during this Session. No benches having been provided, the pupils climbed upon stools and tables; others not being able to find standing-room in positions enabling them to see the subject, amused themselves at the expense of their neighbours, or sat at the fire, or left the room: thus rendering disorder and dissatisfaction an almost essential concomitant of the Demonstration. Moreover, the distance between the Dissecting-room and the Theatre forbade the removal of the subject to the Theatre, and thus ill-feeling originated in circumstances over which I had no control, and which were within the control of the Medical Committee alone. Had I not misunderstood the matter, as above mentioned, I could have readily given short Demonstrations, since no special subject would have been necessary beyond those in process of dissection. At the same time, I may mention, that the weight of a first course on anatomy can be appreciated only by those who, with the labours of practice, feel it.

If this investigation be not from personal motives, but purely for the welfare of the School, I beg to intimate that on that subject I can feel as acutely as the Medical Committee, and have laboured as hard as themselves to promote it; and I think that it by no means follows that as the power is concentrated in that body so is an earnest and diligent desire for the welfare of the Institution.

You state in your letter, that "as a complaint of this nature has never before been made whilst Mr. Hancock, Mr. Hird, or Mr. Canton, consecutively held the same position, &c.," and infer from thence that there are now special grounds for it. It is not difficult to show that many special circumstances have existed during the past Session. In Mr. Hird the students had the honour of the teaching of one in an eminent degree qualified for a Lecturer, and to whom anatomical details had become by long practice as familiar as household words—one who does, and who ought to possess the confidence of the students to an extent not inferior to that of his most favoured colleagues, and who, moreover, had the good fortune to be aided by a gentleman of natural talent and love for the subject, with much spare time, and with long familiarity with anatomical details; and who, further, was willing to occupy a subordinate position, with inadequate remuneration, for many years, in the hope of attaining to that position which he now deservedly holds—in these and other points a *rara avis*! Neither was it probable that complaints would be urged against Mr. Canton, although he dispensed with the assistance of a Demonstrator (yet retaining the emoluments which had previously sufficed for both officers), and although his *bonâ fide* attendance in the Dissecting-room scarcely, if at all, exceeded my own; for he possesses in a rare degree the tact of attaching students to his person, and the students in successive generations having been educated by and with him, had learnt that nothing further or better was attainable or desirable. More-

(a) Four candidates subsequently competed for the junior prize, and of these, three gave most admirable papers.

over, he has the happiness to enjoy the friendly countenance of an influential member of the Medical Committee, who, with himself, carry the students with them to the incomplete exclusion of their less-favoured colleagues. I came an untried, and, therefore, a suspected man—suspected none the less from my immediate antecedents not having been associated with the Dissecting-room. I have not the tact to attach the students to me *en masse*, but, on the contrary, my bearing differing in a marked degree from that of my predecessor I suffered in the eyes of those most likely to complain. I introduced new matter into my course, a proceeding likely to appear superfluous to advanced students and to predecessors. My inclination is towards physiological studies, and, therefore, I may have unwittingly given rise to the statement of one of my colleagues that I was out of my track. I have not been able to relieve the insipidity of my conversations and lectures by an occasional oath, a startling joke, or an allusion of questionable morality. The beer trade has received a heavy blow and great discouragement, for the supply to the Dissecting-room has diminished from twenty pots in a morning, and forty pots in one day, to about two pots during my Session. (a) Lastly, circumstance have arisen which at least have not attached to me the two popular, and, in one sense, most powerful of my colleagues. Surely there are many circumstances under which I have performed my duties which were likely to give development to complaints on the part of some who would have stifled them if the cause for them had arisen during the administration of my predecessor.

In conclusion, it is a matter of deep regret, and, considering the thick darkness in which I have apparently been enveloped, of some surprise to me that I have failed to gain the approbation of the Medical Committee. I have introduced much matter to the class which I believe to be new and important to them, and I should have presumed that many imperfections would have been deemed a *necessary* accompaniment of a first course on so extensive a subject. I could easily dilate this letter to the extent of a pamphlet, but will conclude with the respectful expression of an opinion, that if this public investigation be needful now, it was needful at the end of the last Session, since then, as now, there was no Demonstrator apart from the Lecturer, and then the attendance in the Dissecting-room was equal to my own. It may be more necessary now by way of accumulation, but not in principle. It should also be borne in mind that whilst my predecessor continued to receive the fee as Curator of the Museum, it was decidedly refused to me on undertaking the duties of my chair, and with it a nucleus for the remuneration of a Demonstrator. With all respect to the Medical Committee,

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. SMITH.

P.S.—I think it due to the Medical Committee to state that Mr. Carr, who was examined by them, and who has been the ostensible prime mover in the various steps of these transactions, is a free student, has not attended six of my Lectures, has not been seen by me six times in the Dissecting-room, is so ignorant of anatomy, as I am informed, that he could not select the knee-joint from a number of other joints, and is the laughing-stock of the School; a gentleman, I humbly submit, to whose complaining opinions I should not be required to listen. I further humbly submit that it is indelicate to examine my pupils to my prejudice in my absence.

R. NEWMAN, Esq.

E. S.

VII.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,
15th April, 1853.

SIR, I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 11th inst., and to acquaint you that it has given the Medical Committee great concern; for, whilst they readily acknowledge the passages in which you speak of them in terms of courtesy, they cannot but regret the presence of imputations which they feel are unfounded.

The impression expressed in your letter, that the appointment of a Demonstrator to assist the Teacher of Practical Anatomy in the Dissecting Room, had been reserved by the Committee to themselves, is altogether erroneous. In nominating the Teacher of Practical Anatomy, they have always held him responsible for efficient attendance in the Dissecting Room, conceding to him

(a) *The dissecting-room for many years past has exhibited a frequently recurring scene of disgrace, from smoking, drinking, swearing, and fighting.*

the option of doing the duty entirely himself, or of providing such assistance (subject to the approval of the Committee) as he might desire, and with such remuneration as he might himself choose to give.

To cite the latest instances—Mr. Hird appointed a gentleman whom he remunerated. Mr. Canton did the duty himself.

The assertion, that you came a suspected man, seems singular from one who was at first and at once heartily welcomed by the Committee and the various Teachers, although nearly a stranger to all, and an entire stranger to the majority of them; and the imputation that you believe the recent succession of events were intended to issue in your summary and ignominious expulsion from the school, can be regarded by the Committee as neither handsome towards themselves, nor as having any foundation in reality; seeing that you, as well as themselves, are aware that the occurrence of so harsh a procedure is guarded against by the mutual agreement between yourself, and the Committee as managers of the school, and with the joint approval of both; and that that engagement (although considered as running on from year to year, till the managers on the one part, or the Lecturer on the other, desire to be dissociated) is readily terminated by a notice on either side to that effect.

Thus is there provided a suitable mode of dissolving with temper and propriety a connection, when either considers its maintenance no longer desirable.

The Committee very much regret that you have permitted yourself to believe (and from your letter it must be considered that you have done so) that feelings have been entertained by some persons, either members of the Committee or joint colleagues of yours as professors in the school, which have induced them to entertain opinions, and to encourage measures not favourable to you; and they still further regret that, in making the Committee acquainted with your belief in regard to so grave a matter, you have done so in a manner sufficiently explicit to imply a charge that some unfair influence has been exercised against you, yet not with sufficient explicitness to induce, or indeed to enable them to take any steps with regard to the implied allegations.

Although the Committee feel that they can assure you, that you have laboured under a misapprehension in respect to that particular, they will not omit to prosecute such investigation as might appear to them to be necessary, should you desire it, and will furnish them with the names of the persons to whom the remarks refer, and the particular circumstances to which they allude.

The Committee are free to confess, that the satisfactory manner in which they considered your duties were fulfilled whilst you occupied the Chair of Botany, gave them unmixed pleasure; and that they anticipated, from your general attainments and assiduity, a no less satisfactory result from your occupancy of the Anatomical Chair.

They were, therefore, gratified in nominating you to that more prominent position: intimations, however, subsequently reached the Committee, that the Anatomical department was not proceeding so satisfactorily as could be desired, and that there existed causes of complaint (of which the resolution of the meeting of students is to be regarded as one, though most delicate of the evidences), and they therefore felt it necessary to consider earnestly and anxiously the subject.

They were induced to surmise that there might be a department of instruction in the school better suited to your taste and previous studies, and they discussed the question according to this view, and reflected how far, by a change in the Lectureships, they might be able to effect arrangements, which should be mutually agreeable, and thus harmoniously promote the prosperity of the school.

The attempt was commenced; the difficulties did not seem insurmountable; the Committee expected its accomplishment, and much desired it. They feel, however, that subsequent events have rendered it impracticable; and they now fear that the many remarks contained in your communication reflecting upon some of your colleagues, however explained or however refuted, are of such a nature, as to bar all probability of that really cordial feeling which should exist amongst men jointly engaged in an arduous and responsible duty, which requires that there should not be either real or supposed cause of displeasure or distrust dwelling in the mind of any one individual towards others of his colleagues.

I am, Sir, your very obedient Servant,

DR. SMITH.

ROBERT NEWMAN.

The passage in this letter referring to my ejection from the School should be noted as an evidence of the double dealing of the writers. They first affect an injured air, as though no such thoughts had ever occurred to them, and then proceed to argue apparently, that they had no such intention; but, in truth, under this form of expression they meant simply to affirm that they could not *summarily* eject me. If they intended to eject me at all my suspicion was not unfounded, and the guilt of it would not be much heightened by the further question as to whether it was to be a summary ejection or not. But surely if they give me notice to quit the School within two or three weeks of the commencement of the miscalled investigation, I experience a *summary* ejectionment.

I ask if the issue does not show that my suspicion was well-founded?

The last paragraph contains the remarkable statement of a justification of their intention to punish me, for having defended myself from a violent attack and a false charge.

VIII.

16, NORFOLK-TERRACE.

April 18, 1853.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of a further communication through you from the Medical Committee, dated April 15th, and a greater pleasure in acknowledging that the general tone and tenor of it are not only unexceptionable, but very different from the tone of the communication with which this correspondence opened.

I am unwilling, by replies, to be a cause of a continuance of this correspondence, which must be painful and unsatisfactory, yet I cannot but rejoice to express my conviction that the Medical Committee, as well as myself (through them) have learnt that infinitely too much importance has been attached to this matter, and to affirm, from extensive inquiries, that the students entertain, *at least*, no personal objection to me, nor to my lectures, and that the real centre, if not the sole ground of complaint, is a desire for additional assistance in the Dissecting Room, or, as they express it, the appointment of a *qualified* demonstrator *apart* from the Lecturer. Had this fact been clearly known and admitted at first by the Medical Committee, I, at least, should have been spared much pain and both parties some misapprehension.

I further express my conviction that when the students return to the School, some respectful and proper mode of communicating to the Medical Committee a confirmation of the above statement will be devised by them. (a).

I beg to present my further grateful acknowledgments for the gentlemanly courtesies which I have received from all my colleagues (as intimated in your letter) previous to the present session, and for the courteous expressions which have emanated from the Medical Committee, in reference to my botanical lectures, and to intimate, as one, and the only one, who knows the relative demerits of my courses on botany and anatomy, and in some humble degree capable of appreciating them, that my course on anatomy was infinitely more to my credit, or rather infinitely less to my discredit, than that on botany.

As the Medical Committee have taken entirely new ground in your last communication, I may assume that they have not thought my remarks and explanations to be without weight, and therefore I shall trouble them in this letter with only a few observations in *further* explanation of some paragraphs found in your letter.

In reference to the assistance obtained in the Dissecting Room during Messrs. Hird's and Canton's incumbencies,—

Mr. Hird obtained a great acquisition in Mr. Canton, such that no other teacher can *reckon* upon obtaining, *and therefore should not be expected to obtain*. Mr. Canton received no remuneration from Mr. Hird for many years, and only £10 (or guineas) during each of the last two years; but he had the appointment of curator of the Museum, which yielded an income, position, and expectation which sufficed, in some humble degree, to induce him to remain attached to the school, and to abide his time. No such qualified assistance is now to be found

in the school, and the appointment and remuneration which were given to the assistant, Mr. Canton, was refused to me as a reward for similar assistance, if it could be found. (a) That no such man can now be found is not my fault, but my misfortune, and I cannot consistently be blamed for it; and had I given the £33 which I have received for my course of lectures to a suitable assistant (could one have been found,) it would not have sufficed to remunerate him. In neither respect could I do impossibilities. I sincerely deplore that this ground of complaint has existed, but the Committee must determine how far the fault rests with me or with themselves.

I sufficiently referred in my last reply to the length of time during which Mr. Canton and myself *relatively*, remained in the Dissecting Room.

In reference to my expression that "I came a suspected man," the context clearly explains it, and proves that there is nothing 'startling or improper' in it. My words were, "I came an untried, and *therefore* a suspected man,—*suspected none the less from my immediate antecedents not having been associated with the dissecting room.*" The "coming" has reference to my entry upon the Anatomical Lectureship, and not to my entry into the Medical School. The words mean that *suspicion, distrust, and want of confidence*, which always attaches to an untried man—one who has not, as yet, had opportunity to show himself to be equal to his duties.

In reference to my opinion as to the probable issue of this investigation, I beg the favour of the attention of the Medical Committee to the following facts:

1st. I am conscious that the demerits of my course and conduct do not warrant so public an inquiry.

2d. I am assured that the opinion and wishes of the students do not warrant so public an inquiry.

3d. The ordinary civility of a formal certificate of having completed my course has been withheld, although the Medical Committee must know that a failure on my part to obtain the recognition of the examining bodies, would result in the rejection of the schedules of the students, and I may therefore fairly ask if this uncourteous step to myself and disastrous one to their pupils would have been taken on trifling grounds (as to the issue of this investigation.) (b)

4th. This investigation *opened* with the transmission to me of a letter, of which the following is a transcription—*transmitted through the Clerk of the Hospital*—a gentleman not a member of the Medical Committee, nor by his engagement an officer of that Committee—a step likely to add to the formality, if not to the ignominy of the investigation. No verbal communications have been made to me from the Medical Committee by one or more of its members. I have not been invited to meet the members in a generous and friendly manner, but every step has been marked by a letter, and has had a formal, positive, impassive, and judicial air. I beg that the Committee will read the following copy of their *first letter*:

"CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,
April 6, 1853.

"SIR, — I am directed by the Medical Committee to acquaint you that they have received communications which have given them considerable uneasiness, to the effect that great dissatisfaction exists in the School as to the manner in which the Anatomical Department has been conducted during the session which has just drawn to a close;—that no systematic course of Anatomy has been given—the teacher having passed irregularly from one subject to another, several parts of great importance being omitted altogether;—that he has been in the habit of coming very late to his Lectures in the morning; and that when a demonstration has been given in the Dissecting-room, there has been no Lecture in the Theatre;—that his attention in the Dissecting-room has been very deficient—from ten minutes to half-an-hour in the morning being the only time in the day he has attended in that room assisting the students in their dissections; that he has made various anatomical errors, and was obliged to lecture copiously from notes.

"The Committee, feeling it their duty to take this subject into their serious consideration, have directed me to make to you this communication, and to acquaint you that they shall be happy to receive any observations which you may desire to favour them with upon the matter.

"I am, Sir, your very obedient Servant,

"ROBERT J. NEWMAN, Clerk."

(a) I owe this to Mr. Hancock, who openly objected to a transference to me of this curatorship, on my taking the Anatomical Chair.

(b) I, of course, readily received the recognitions of the College and Hall, without their certificate; but their conduct is not thus rendered less uncivil and oppressive.

This is a letter, as the Medical Committee must admit, offering the highest indignity to me, and to the position which I have held for two years as Lecturer on Botany, and a further year as Lecturer on Anatomy, not simply with their cognizance, nor simply with their concurrence, but by their own express appointment; a letter addressed to one enjoying the same rank in life as themselves, and who by their favor enjoys an equal standing with themselves as colleagues. I put it, as an accused person, to each member of the Medical Committee, if their blood would not have boiled on the receipt, by themselves, of such a letter, as a first communication, and whether they would not have indignantly cast it into the fire.

5th. The mode in which this investigation has been conducted has not been calculated to inspire confidence in an accused person and his friends. *A letter is first sent by the Medical Committee, based upon "a" (one) letter forwarded to them by "a" (one) student, without a copy of the complaining letter accompanying it, and without the name of the student having been revealed, so that I might judge of his value as an accuser. Further, in each of the letters of the Medical Committee, I am required to accuse (or to criminate) myself without any intimation having been given that the issue was intended to be a friendly one. My pupils are examined by the Medical Committee, alone, in my absence, and close (and I will add unfair) questions are put to them, such as, "Did you receive that amount of benefit from the course which you expected to receive?" (as though benefit was even mainly dependent upon the teacher); and when the very proper reply was given, "I might have learnt more if I had been more diligent," the rejoinder was, "Then you confess yourself to be an idle student." In the third communication of the Medical Committee, in which that body practically declined to give a copy of the student's accusation and to reveal his name, after courteously withdrawing two alleged grounds of complaint, I am favoured with the following offensive remark:—"They desire to state, with regard to those parts of the communication which refer to the lecturer's 'anatomical errors, and his being obliged to lecture copiously from notes, it is not their wish to entertain the subject,' and they hope that it will not be necessary to do so."*

I now again, with every possible respect, put it to the members of the Medical Committee individually, as men having common feeling, necessary self-respect, a proper pride and ambition, and a desire to live honourably in the world,—if I have not had ground (independent of the circumstances which have occurred during the session and to which I shall not now refer) for my worst fears, and if, considering the inadequacy of the grounds of this investigation, the ignominy which has attended it, and the evil consequences which must follow, whatever the immediate issue may be, if the conduct of the Medical Committee has not been cruel. I am glad to learn, from your last letter, that the Medical Committee did not intend to "summarily and ignominiously eject me from the school." But in the absence of that information I and others could judge of their intentions only by their own acts.

It would ill-become me, under any circumstances, but more particularly as a young man, although a colleague and an equal, to hint as to the mode in which such an inquiry might have been conducted; yet I will use that freedom which one gentleman accords to another, to state that if one of the members of the Committee had, in a friendly way, taken me to his colleagues, and said, "We are, as you will believe, very desirous for the welfare of the School, and are also friendly towards yourself, and shall be glad if you will explain why *"you have not given a systematic course,"* this year;—why you have not given *"both Demonstrations and Lectures daily,"*—*"why you have remained so short a period in the Dissecting-room;"* *"why you have made errors,"* and *"why, you have lectured from notes,"* I should, in all probability, have been encouraged to reply, *"I quite concur with you in a desire to further the interests of the school, and have put those desires into practice; and I ought to be permitted to claim that indulgence usually accorded to one going through the horrors of a first course. I have dwelt too long in my description of the bones, and thus have not had time to discuss many important subjects: but a Lecturer needs experience to enable him to fairly divide his course so as to comprehend the whole within his allotted number of Lectures. In other courses I shall attend more to the viscera, and in a proportionate degree less to the bones; yet I think it advantageous to the students to give an especial attention to one subject in one session, and to another subject in a second session, and so on. I have, like my colleagues, been late on several occasions; to my infinite and inexpressible annoyance; for attention*

to practice has not caused it, negligence has not caused it, but it has occurred through the omnibuses, which, whilst they generally run with great regularity, have occasionally been retarded in their course. On Tuesday and Thursday, I could not enter the theatre until a quarter past the hour, because at the hour the chemical apparatus had to be removed, and my own extensive series of diagrams placed in position. I have on three occasions, I believe, been a quarter of an hour past the time. *I did not understand that I was required to give two lectures daily, since the examining bodies regard all my Lectures as Demonstrations. I would gladly have remained longer in the Dissecting-room, had I known of the existence of a desire that I should do so; but I did remain for about the same time as was customary during the preceding session. I may have made inadvertently a few errors; and whoever gave a course of 100 Lectures on any subject, and more particularly if it were a first course, who would dare to affirm that he had not done the same? Twice, I think, I discovered an error in expression, and consequently, corrected it in the next Lecture. I could not do otherwise than use notes on so extensive a subject in a first course, and more particularly from my having prominently referred to the new views of Professor Owen, the minute details of ossification, and of the surgical anatomy of the joints and bones. One of my colleagues reads his Lectures entire; many use detailed notes; my predecessor who did not use notes in lecturing on Anatomy, has used copious notes in his Lectures on Physiology. Professor Owen, in his present course (as in other courses), not only uses notes, but reads part of his Lecture from his own printed sheets. My notes, with the exception of those on the bones, used before Christmas, occupy only half a sheet of note paper for each Lecture, and were written rather to be read on my way to lecture, than in the room. Many Lectures were given without notes. There have been doubtless many deficiencies, and he is an ignorant man who would profess to exhaust an extensive subject in 100 Lectures; and who, not having been an habitué of the Dissecting-room for years, having also the cares of practice upon him, could have done better? I have secured and retained the respect of my class (at least, of all that is industrious and respectable in it), and my first year's men have made unusual progress."*

Thus I may be permitted, in conclusion, to state, I should have been treated as a friend, a colleague, and an equal; and the Medical Committee, I am sure, would have been satisfied, and would have suggested such alteration as they deemed to be desirable.

I now regard the steps taken by the Medical Committee with more sympathy than at first, since I am sure that with their anxiety for the welfare of the school, they have been imposed upon. I cannot, however, forbear to express my deep regret at the occurrence of this public investigation, since it is likely to undeservedly injure my character, and to lower the position of the Lecturer's office, and that of the Medical Committee, in the eyes of the students and of all others who may be truly informed as to these transactions.

I would also express my unfeigned acknowledgments for the kindness of the Committee in reference to their anxiety to find a post in the School which they think might better conform to my studies and taste. I have valued, and still value an honourable post in the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School; but a higher post in King's College School, even, would be dearly bought at the cost of my own peace and reputation.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. NEWMAN, Esq.

E. SMITH.

In further explanation of the demerits of their first letter, thus commented on by me, I may state that the school, as a whole, is far from keeping pace with the improvements of the present day. This will be seen in the department of Anatomy, when I state that no reference whatever has been made to the highly important and philosophic views of Professor Owen. Comparative Anatomy was excluded from the class. I could not find a student who was competent to make a good dissection of the perinæum for demonstration, nor one who had seen the facial nerve and its communicating branches dissected, or the sympathetic nerve exposed in its ganglia and communications, and more particularly the ganglia of the head and neck.

Attention to microscopic discoveries was so fully discarded that, after I had introduced the microscope in the exhibition of every kind of vegetable tissue in my courses on Botany, and into the examinations for the prizes, Mr. Hancock, openly in the Theatre and in the Wards, informed the students that they ought not to touch the microscope until after they had left the school!

The aim seemed to be to continue in the good old way, and to neglect all the departments which induce men to think, and lead them in their turn to become contributors to the new discoveries of the age. That mode of teaching which in higher schools would be hailed with approbation is here received with coldness, distrust, and affected disdain.

Incomplete courses of Lectures have been the rule; and as I am informed that Mr. Hancock's course has this year been less incomplete than formerly, I presume he has had a reason for it.

IX.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,

April 20th, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am seeking promises for papers from good men for the next Session, and have already obtained over twenty good names. May I place your name for a Surgical paper, to lead off that department at the second or third meeting in the next Session.

Dr. Chowne called upon me on Monday evening, and as I had the misfortune to be then away from home, I called upon him on Tuesday morning, when he introduced the subject of a misunderstanding between you and myself, which has, of late, caused me much uneasiness. After hearing my statement, he assured me that although there may not be that cordiality which might be desirable, yet there is not any feeling on your part which can fairly be called unfriendly.

Perhaps "cordiality" could scarcely be expected between persons so differently constituted, except upon a more intimate acquaintance of each other than has hitherto been permitted; but so long as no unfriendly feeling exists, there are, perhaps, no fair grounds for complaint. I, therefore, accept his assurance, and withdraw any opinions which I may have based upon a contrary supposition, and can only hope that further acquaintance will somewhat lessen this want of cordiality.

I ought, also, to offer my acknowledgments for your concurrence in certain changes which were in the contemplation of the Medical Committee, as I am informed by our mutual friend Dr. Chowne.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

HENRY HANCOCK, Esq.

E. SMITH.

Reference is made in this letter to an interview which I had had with Dr. Chowne. He sought this interview for the purpose of assuring me that I entertained unjust suspicions as to the feeling of the Medical Committee, and of Mr. Hancock individually, towards myself, and informed me, upon his word, that it was not unfriendly. I hesitated to adopt this opinion, since I had reason to believe that Dr. Chowne was unaware of the plans of Mr. Hancock, and ignorant as to Mr. Hancock's real feeling; but as the preceding letters had assumed a less unfriendly air,—as Dr. Chowne solemnly assured me that this unfriendly feeling did not exist, and as I would not show myself guilty of obstinacy, and thus close the door to a firm reconciliation,—I thought it right to receive the explanation; and having done so, to write a friendly letter to the Medical Committee and to Mr. Hancock. Mr. Hancock did not reply to that part of my letter, and the Medical Committee so replied that I believed the whole affair to have ended.

I regret, greatly, to think that I was imposed upon by this transaction, and that the Medical Committee stole a march upon my good-nature. This step was doubtless taken in the hope of obtaining some letter from me which would bar all future proceedings on my part, and of inducing me to submit quietly when the crushing blow should at length be dealt. Can it be doubted that the Medical Committee at that moment had determined to eject me, when they forwarded their notice to me within a few days after this interview with Dr. Chowne?

X.

16, NORFOLK-TERRACE, WESTBOURNE-GROVE,
April 22nd, 1853.

GENTLEMEN,—From a conversation with which I have been favoured by Dr. Chowne, I learn that the feeling of the Medical Committee was really not unfriendly at the time, when, judging from recent events, I thought it to be hostile.

I feel that the “animus” (when truly known) is the proper key by which to interpret the acts of others, and, as an honest man, who now knows the “animus” of the Medical Committee in these transactions, I am bound to wish that the letters, or parts of letters, which I have written under the impression that an adverse or hostile feeling existed may be forgotten.

Such a note as this is capable of misconstruction, yet I feel that I have no alternative than to send it, hoping that it will be understood to mean neither more nor less than it expresses.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

The Medical Committee.

E. SMITH.

XI.

CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL,
April 21st, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 18th inst., and to acquaint you that the Medical Committee have been desirous of communicating with you on the matters which have been the subject of their recent letters, in a manner that should be neither uncourteous nor unkind, and they are sorry that you have had any impression that they have been disposed to do otherwise.

The Committee do not consider that anything has transpired to make them regard the objects of their correspondence less important or less requiring their serious attention than they at first considered them, and they have been desirous not to enhance the importance of any one of the subjects which have given them as well as yourself so much concern.

The Committee cannot fail to have observed in the course of your letters the use of terms, and the expression of opinions unhappily calculated to destroy that cordiality of feeling which they have been desirous of preserving.

You say with reference to the Committee—

“If the investigation be not from personal motives, but purely for the welfare of the School,” &c.

You intimate that an uncourteous step had been taken.

You say that the Committee had offered the highest indignity to you, and you ask, if on the receipt of such a letter by themselves they would not have indignantly cast it into the fire?

You allege that the mode of inquiring adopted by the Committee had not been delicate, and that close and unfair questions were put to the students.

You ask if the conduct of the Committee has not been cruel.

You state that you believed that the succession of events were intended to issue in your summary and ignominious ejection from the School.

That you had been favoured with an offensive remark, &c.

In your letter of the 18th April, you state that in each of the letters of the Medical Committee you are required to accuse or criminate yourself.

The Committee, in reference to this, have to remind you that after informing you, by letter of the 6th inst., of the tenour of a communication which they had received, they added that they should be happy to receive any observations which you might desire to favour them with upon the matter.

Your construction of this passage and mode of alluding to it, the Committee consider harsh in respect to an invitation which they hoped would have been received as a full indication of a not unkind feeling.

I am instructed to state, that if in the course of any communication made to you by the Committee there has been the appearance of any discourtesy, or of any unkind feeling in the manner, in which they have, in the discharge of their duty to the School, expressed themselves, so as to give you any greater regret and concern than was necessarily incidental to the subject, they beg to assure you that it has been unintentional.

I am directed to add, with reference to the duties connected with the Dissecting-room; that the Committee, after a full consideration of the explanations which they have received, and with every desire to regard them in the most favourable view, are constrained to express their opinion that the manner in which those duties have been performed during the past Session, was not in accordance with the conditions upon which you received from them the appointment of Teacher of Anatomy.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

ROBT. J. NEWMAN.

XII.

16, NORFOLK-TERRACE, WESTBOURNE-GROVE,

April 22nd, 1853.

GENTLEMEN,—Previous to the arrival of your favour of yesterday's date, I had forwarded to Dr. Chowne a letter which he will do me the favour to present to you; and in acknowledging the receipt of your letter, and the courtesy by which it is characterized, I have to express the satisfaction which I feel in having so forwarded the above-mentioned letter.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

E. SMITH.

The Medical Committee,

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

XIII.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,

April 23rd, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed by the Medical Committee to acknowledge the pleasure of having received your letter of yesterday, and to acquaint you that they feel obliged by your enclosing to them Mr. Ewington's letter.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. J. NEWMAN.

DR. SMITH.

XIV.

Dr. Chowne paid me a memorable and last visit on this subject on April 27, only three days after I had received the letter (No. 13) from the Medical Committee, and after much circumlocution informed me that the Medical Committee had felt that it would be best to make a change in the occupancy of my chair, and then further, that the change had been actually then decided upon, and gave me a sufficient intimation of their willingness to receive my resignation. This was surely adding insult to injury, and monstrous, when it is remembered that I had been grossly calumniated, ill-treated, and trod upon by men not so pure themselves as might be wished. I, of course, indignantly scouted it. This friendly visit had again for its object to entrap me into a course of procedure which should prevent any appeal being made to the students (to the parties who were said to have given origin to the attack, and the only parties who could successfully resist it) and to the profession. This craftiness was further exhibited when the second notice was served upon me by their porter, Wait, who was directed to open the letter, to read it, and to give it to me personally, and in it I am innocently requested to *accept* the "Notice."

The legal investigation of this matter is now confided to Mr. Timothy Tyrrell, the eminent solicitor, of Guildhall-yard.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,
April 28th, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed by the Medical Committee to convey to you the expression of their regret, that after much anxious consideration they are impressed with the belief that it is desirable to make a change in the occupancy of the chair of Practical Anatomy.

They, therefore, beg to transmit to you, this, their notice to terminate their engagement with you, in conformity with the regulation, that the Committee, as Managers of the School on the one part, or the Lecturer on the other part, if desirous of terminating the engagement existing between them, shall give notice to that effect in or before the first week in May.

I am directed by the Committee to express to you their great respect for your attainments, and to assure you of their concern in feeling the propriety of this decision.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,

DR. E. SMITH.

ROBT. J. NEWMAN.

XV.

16, NORFOLK-TERRACE, WESTBOURNE-GROVE,
April 30th, 1853.

Dr. Smith presents his compliments to the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and begs the favour of a copy of the document which he signed on his appointment to the Chair of Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy in that School.

ROBT. NEWMAN, ESQ.
Charing Cross Hospital.

XVI.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,
May 2nd, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed by the Medical Committee to inquire whether you received the communication, which I had the honour of writing to you on Thursday last, the 28th April, of their notice to terminate the engagement between themselves as Managers of the Medical School, and yourself as the Lecturer and Teacher of Practical Anatomy, &c.

Not having received your acknowledgment of it, they desire me now to repeat their notice, and to request that you will be so good as to accept this communication as their notice accordingly, and to consider yourself free to make any other engagement elsewhere, which you may deem desirable; whilst they shall hold themselves at liberty to make such other arrangements and engagements here, in the Department of Practical and Surgical Anatomy, as they may consider necessary for the next winter Session, which will commence in October next.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
ROBT. J. NEWMAN.

DR. E. SMITH.

XVII.

16, NORFOLK-TERRACE, WESTBOURNE-GROVE,
May 4th, 1853.

Dr. Edward Smith presents his compliments to the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and begs to call their attention to his note, addressed to them on April 30th. On receiving a copy of the document he will know the conditions of his engagement, and be prepared to accede to the request of the Medical Committee.

R. NEWMAN, ESQ.
Charing Cross Hospital.

XVIII.

16, NORFOLK-TERRACE, WESTBOURNE-GROVE,
May 10th, 1853.

Dr. Edward Smith presents his compliments to the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and begs to call their attention to his letters, addressed to them on April 30th and May 4th, to neither of which has any reply been received. They contain a request from Dr. Smith for a copy of the conditions of his engagement as Anatomical Lecturer; a very reasonable request, and one which may be legally enforced. Dr. Smith begs further to intimate that if the Medical Committee should not see fit to forward the required

copy of the document before May 14th, he shall present his request to the authorities of the Charing Cross Hospital.

XIX.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,

May 10, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed by the Medical Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 30th April, which did not reach them till Monday, the 2nd May, and also that of the 4th instant.

In reply to your request for a copy of the document which you signed on your appointment to the Anatomical Department, I herewith send it; the entry in the minute book, which is similar to that signed by the different lecturers when they join the School, and is as follows:—

“Having read the regulations numbered 1 to 8, inclusive, contained in pages 243, 244, and 245 of the first volume of the Book of Minutes of the Medical School of this Hospital, I hereby record my acquiescence therein.

“Oct 4, 1852.

“(signed) EDWARD SMITH.”

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

R. J. NEWMAN.

DR. EDWARD SMITH.

XX.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,

May 11, 1853.

SIR,—I beg to acquaint you that your notes of the 30th ult. and of the 4th inst. were laid before the Medical Committee, at their Meeting yesterday, and in accordance with your request, the document required by you was then sent to you.

I have now to acknowledge your note of the 10th, requesting a copy of the conditions of your engagement as Anatomical Lecturer, which will be laid before the Committee at their next Meeting.

In mean time I beg to inquire, for their information, whether you refer to the conditions under which the duties of anatomical Lecturer were undertaken by you?

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

R. J. NEWMAN.

DR. EDWARD SMITH.

XXI.

16, NORFOLK TERRACE, WESTBOURNE GROVE,

May 16, 1853.

Dr. Edward Smith presents his compliments to the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and begs to state that absence from town, until late on Saturday evening, prevented him from acknowledging the receipt of their communications of the 10th and 11th of May respectively. In his letters of April 30th, May 4th, and May 10th, to the Medical Committee, he has begged to be favoured with a copy of the written engagement into which he entered on his appointment to the Anatomical chair at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School. The reply of the Medical Committee, dated May 10th, is clearly an insufficient answer to his request, but as it appears to be in the nature of an index to the whereabouts of the desired information, Dr. Smith begs the favour of a copy of the regulations (numbered 1 to 8, inclusive) referred to in that communication, or the favour of being permitted to send his attorney or a friend to take a copy of the same.

XXII.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,

May 21, 1853.

SIR,—By direction of the Medical Committee I have to acknowledge your notes of the 10th and 16th inst., in the latter of which you request a copy of the regulations; numbered 1 to 8, inclusive, referred to, or that you may be permitted to send your attorney or friend to take a copy.

Your recent request for a copy of the document which you signed on your appointment to the Practical Anatomy Department in October last, was complied with, and a copy of the document sent to you. In that document, as also in a previous one, which you signed on your appointment to the chair of Botany, you have affirmed that you have read the regulations referred to, and acquiesced in them; and you are aware that upon the faith of that affirmation and that acquiescence, and in the full confidence reposed in your assurance

thus deliberately and unreservedly given, you were admitted by the Committee to the appointment of Teacher of Practical Anatomy at this School.

You cannot therefore require to be reminded that the essential part of the regulations, which form the foundation of your engagement with the Committee, specify that gentlemen, joining as Lecturers at this School, are expected to conform to such regulations as the managers of the School may, from time to time, deem it necessary to make (which regulations, with reference to the duties of Practical Anatomy, were fully explained to you), and that the engagement of those gentlemen is to be considered as running on from year to year till the managers of the School, on the one part, or the Lecturer on the other part, give a written notice of a desire to terminate the engagement, which notice is to be given in before the first week in May, if it refer to lectures comprehended in the Winter Session.

Upon this part of the regulations, which enjoins no necessity of assigning especial reasons in giving notice, which might possibly be painful, the Committee have acted, and they have forbore to specify the grounds of their decision in their notice to terminate their engagement with you, as they would consider you at liberty to forbear assigning any grounds in the event of your giving notice to them of your desire to withdraw from the School.

In availing themselves of this mutual right, the Committee have wished to manifest the same consideration and delicacy towards you, as they could desire should be evinced towards themselves.

The Committee have remarked certain expressions in your notes which appear to imply that you are taking, or meditate taking, legal measures, and they therefore deem it proper to intimate that they are not desirous of protracting this correspondence, and they have to inform you that the solicitors of the Hospital are Messrs. Fladgate, Clarke, and Co., of Craven Street, Strand.

The Committee, in conclusion, have to state that they are not unmindful that there are some arrears of payments applicable to the Practical Anatomy Department, which have been received, or are receivable, since the last settlement in January, which arrears will be paid to you whenever you may desire it.

I am, sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

DR. EDWARD SMITH.

R. J. NEWMAN.

XXIII.

16, NORFOLK TERRACE, WESTBOURNE GROVE,

June 13, 1853.

MY LORD,—I take the liberty to solicit your lordship's kind interference as President of the Charing Cross Hospital.

I was appointed the Lecturer on Botany at the Medical School attached to the Hospital in 1851, and, in accordance with custom, read over certain regulations in the Minute Book at pages 243, 244, and 254, Vol. I., numbered from 1 to 8, inclusive, and signed an acknowledgment of having so read them. In 1852 I was transferred to the chair of Anatomy, and again, in due course, acknowledged that I had read the same regulations. As I had read them in the preceding year, I did not then re-read them, neither did I obtain a copy of them, and thus my recollection of them is very indistinct. After the conclusion of my Anatomical course in March last, a correspondence was opened between the Medical Committee of the School (consisting practically of only three, yet nominally of only four gentlemen) and myself, in which I was charged with inefficiency as a teacher, the charge being professedly derived from and based upon the views and wishes of the students. I knew the charge to be false, and only a cloak for a personal attack, and that the views of the students had been by some person or persons misrepresented, and I have now the honour to enclose an advertisement published by the students in the "Medical Journals" of Saturday last, confirmatory of my opinion. The correspondence, however, issued in a notice from the Medical Committee to myself to discontinue my engagement with them; and this notice has the manifest informality of not stating the length of it or the period at which under it my engagement is to expire. I have reason to believe that amongst the regulations to which I have referred is one stating the length of notice to be given by either party, and I have therefore requested to be favoured with a copy of them, so that I may ascertain the validity of this notice. As these regulations are in the nature of a contract, I, as one of the contracting parties, have every moral and equitable right to possess a copy of them, for without it I am ignorant of the terms of the engagement into which I entered. I have addressed four letters to

the Medical Committee requesting this favour, and have obtained only a copy of the acknowledgment which I had signed of having read them. This is clearly an evasion, since the contract itself, if there be one, is in the regulations and not in the acknowledgment referred to. Having failed in this endeavour, I have no alternative than to lay my request before your Lordship, and beg that, as a contracting party, I may be permitted to have a copy of the contract contained in the regulations numbered 1 to 8, inclusive.

I would have spared your Lordship this trouble could I, with propriety, have appealed to the Weekly Board of Management; but since that important Board is frequently constituted by the director, Dr. Golding (the leading member of the Medical Committee, and in effect the sole manager of the whole Institution), and the Clerk with the further addition, sometimes, of the Chaplain, your Lordship will readily perceive that I should merely meet the same parties to whom I have already, ineffectually, presented my request.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble servant,

EDWARD SMITH, M.D., L.L.B., B.A.,

Lecturer on Anatomy at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School.

To the most noble the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

XXIV.

16, NORFOLK TERRACE, WESTBOURNE GROVE,

June 13, 1853.

Dr. Edward Smith presents his compliments to the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and begs to call their attention to an advertisement from the students of their Medical School, published in the "Lancet" and "Medical Times" of Saturday last. He regards that advertisement and the attitude of the students as conclusive evidence that the Medical Committee were misinformed as to the views and wishes of the class in reference to his teaching; and since the Medical Committee have made a statement injurious to his character, based upon this erroneous information, he calls upon them, respectfully, to withdraw it. Dr. Smith is preparing, at the request of the students, a statement of the late proceedings between himself and the Medical Committee, and will be happy to give the Medical Committee the opportunity to publish a withdrawal of statements which can now be regarded only as a calumny.

XXV.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,

June 18, 1853.

SIR.—I have to acknowledge the receipt, on the afternoon of the 15th inst., of your note of the 13th inst., which will be laid before the Committee-managers of the Medical School at their next meeting.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. NEWMAN.

DR. EDWARD SMITH.

XXVI.

16, NORFOLK TERRACE,

June 28, 1853.

Dr. Edward Smith presents his compliments to the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital, and begs to remind them of his note of June 13th, and of their interim reply of June 18th, 1853.

XXVII.

16, NORFOLK TERRACE,

July 11, 1853.

Dr. Edward Smith begs to forward to the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital a copy of the resolutions of the students, as published in the "Medical Times and Gazette," of June 18th, 1853, and to remind them of his letters addressed to them on June 13th, and 28th, calling on them to withdraw their accusation.

XXVIII.

16, NORFOLK TERRACE,

July 12, 1853.

To the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School.

GENTLEMEN,—I hear on every hand that the Royal College of Surgeons of England has withdrawn its recognition of the Charing Cross Hospital and its Medical School; and as this act is highly important to me in my position as

Lecturer in that Medical School, I beg to ask if the above-mentioned report be well founded?

I, in common with the other Lecturers and Officers of that Institution, shall have to bear a share of the loss and disgrace which may attend a withdrawal of the recognition.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
E. SMITH, M.D.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE STUDENTS OF THE CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL,

(Reprinted from the Medical Times and Gazette of June 18, 1853.)

To the Editor of the "Medical Times and Gazette."

SIR.—I beg to enclose the whole of the late proceedings of the students of this Hospital with Dr. Smith and the Medical Committee, in the hope that you may give them publicity, knowing that you are a friend to the students, and take always the weaker side.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
J. E. ADKINS, M.R.C.S.E., Secretary.

Charing-cross Hospital, June 14, 1853.

The first steps taken by the students, in reference to Dr. Smith and his subsequent dealings with the Medical Committee, were at a meeting held in the Theatre of the Hospital, on March 24th, when the following Resolution was passed:

"That a Deputation of the students wait upon Dr. Smith, requesting him to use his influence with the Medical Committee, in obtaining the appointment of a qualified Demonstrator for the next winter session, it being considered by the meeting, that the duties of Demonstrator and Lecturer involve too much labour to be efficiently discharged by the same gentleman; but, at the same time, the continued exertions of Dr. Smith during the past session are fully recognised."

Two gentlemen were then appointed to wait upon Dr. Smith, to explain to him the nature of the above Resolution, and Dr. Smith took a copy of the original Minutes. They were informed, that Dr. Smith entirely concurred in their views, and promised every assistance in his power, and that he had reason to believe that the Medical Committee also concurred with them; and that the only difficulty was, the arrangement as to the source whence the emoluments of a qualified Demonstrator were to be derived.

The students then left town for the vacation; but, on April 8, the House-Surgeon and two of the students were called upon to give evidence before the Medical Committee of the Institution. The questions put to each, separately and alone, were similar, namely: "Does Dr. Smith make errors while lecturing? Does he lecture from notes? Is his attendance in the dissecting-room frequent? Can you learn as much from Dr. Smith as from Mr. Canton?"

On this occasion one of those examined saw the Minutes of the meeting of students, of March 24th, lying upon the table, containing the names of the students who had taken a prominent part in the meeting; and as it was not intended that those Resolutions should be sent to the Medical Committee, and as it was feared that some of the students would become marked men, it gave rise to much dissatisfaction. It was evident that a breach of confidence had been committed by some of the parties into whose hands the Resolutions of the meeting of March 24th had been committed.

On the return of the students for the summer session, it was determined to call a meeting, and seek an explanation of this circumstance; and a meeting was held in the Theatre, on May 18th, Mr. Simpson in the chair, when, after hearing Mr. Simpson's explanation, it was resolved unanimously:—

"1st. That Dr. Smith be requested to meet the students of the Charing-cross

Hospital, to explain how the copy of the Resolutions passed by them, at a meeting held March 24th, got into the hands of the Medical Committee, with a view to an explanation of the feelings of the students upon the subject of those Resolutions:

"2nd. That a copy of the foregoing Resolution be sent by post to Dr. Smith, requesting him to appoint a time and place to meet the students (suggesting Saturday next at 3 o'clock.)

"3rd. That this meeting be adjourned till Dr. Smith's explanation has been received."

In reply, Dr. Smith forwarded by post the following letter, appointing the Freemasons' Tavern as the place of meeting :

"May 19th, 1853.

"DEAR SIR,—I am favoured with your letter of May 17, containing a copy of a Resolution passed at a meeting of the students of Charing-cross Hospital, in which I am requested to meet the students, to explain certain specified matters. The meeting left to me the arrangement of the place, day, and hour, of the proposed meeting; but you have kindly intimated, that Saturday next, at 3 p.m., would be convenient for the students. I shall have much pleasure in acceding to the wishes of the students, to meet them at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on Saturday next, at 3 p.m.

"Yours very truly,
"E. SMITH.

"Thomas Simpson, Esq., Chairman."

A meeting of the students was, therefore, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 21st of May, when Dr. Smith attended, and explained the mode by which the Medical Committee had become possessed of the Resolutions of the meeting of the 24th of March.

He read several letters which had passed between himself and Dr. Chowne, dated from April 2nd to May 20th, which showed that he had forwarded a copy of the Minutes to Dr. Chowne, with the reservation, that it was not to the Medical Committee, but to Dr. Chowne, as a friend and colleague. Dr. Chowne acknowledged the reservation, but, on April 6th, he requested permission to lay them before the Medical Committee, which on April 7th, Dr. Smith refused. On April 9th, Dr. Chowne informed Dr. Smith that he had laid them before the Medical Committee. It thus appeared, that Dr. Chowne had handed the Resolution to the Medical Committee, and in opposition to the wishes of Dr. Smith.

It was then put to the meeting, whether Dr. Smith should explain his present relations with the Medical Committee, and, on that being affirmed, Dr. Smith read a very lengthened correspondence which had taken place between himself and the Medical Committee, which showed that the only complaint against Dr. Smith had been made by an individual student clandestinely, and, on that letter, the Medical Committee had accused Dr. Smith of inefficiency. It also appeared, that the issue was, a notice given by the Medical Committee to Dr. Smith, to cease his functions as our anatomical lecturer, a notice which Dr. Smith declared to be informal and illegal, since no termination to it was mentioned; and therefore Dr. Smith announced his intention to continue his functions during the next winter session. It also appeared that Dr. Smith had vainly endeavoured to obtain from the Medical Committee a copy of the regulations under which he was appointed, so that he might inform himself as to the length of notice agreed on by both parties.

A vote of thanks was then given to Dr. Smith for his kindness in meeting the students; and it was further unanimously resolved, that a letter be sent to the Medical Committee, requesting them to give the name of the accuser or accusers of Dr. Smith. The following is a copy of the letter so sent:

CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL,
2nd June, 1853.

"Gentlemen,—We beg to inform you that, at a meeting of the students of the Charing-cross Hospital, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday last, it was resolved unanimously:

"That the Medical Committee be requested to inform the students the name of Dr. Smith's accuser or accusers."

"As Chairman of that meeting I feel it my duty to request your attention to the above Resolution; and am directed to acquaint you with the reasons for seeking that information. At the outset, we repudiate the thought of acting in hostility to the Medical Committee; on the contrary, we respect it,—we feel that the interests of the school are of as much importance to us as to it; perhaps, since our characters as medical men will, in a great measure, depend on that of the school in which we were educated, of even greater importance; and, this being the case, we feel that we are only just to ourselves in asking for further particulars, in a matter where the reputation of the school is, to a certain extent, at stake. In the opinion of many of the students, the accusations brought against Dr. Smith, by one or more of our number, were presumptuous and impertinent; even stronger language has been used in reference to this act; and it is but fair to men innocent of the transaction, that those who conducted themselves in a manner which the majority condemn, should be the only ones to bear the odium of their own act. You will admit that it will be very unfortunate for us if the issue of the correspondence between yourself and Dr. Smith should have any disastrous influence over the conduct of our examiners. If this gentleman be dismissed as incompetent, we fear that, when we present ourselves for examination at the College or Hall, we shall be marked men, destined to a doubly-severe ordeal on this account; and, since it appears from the correspondence we have heard read, that the Medical Committee desired to benefit us by an exchange of Lecturers, and took their first steps in the matter in consequence of some complaints having reached them, we think it fair that we should know what those complaints are, and by whom they were made.

"Awaiting your reply, which we hope to have by Saturday next,

"We are, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient Servants,

"T. SIMPSON, Chairman.

"JOSHUA E. ADKINS, Secretary."

"*The Medical Committee,*

"CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL."

No answer was received to this letter, and therefore, on June 8, the students held a further meeting in the theatre of the Hospital, when the following Resolutions were carried unanimously:

"That this meeting is of opinion that the Resolution passed at a meeting of the students of the Charing-cross Hospital, held March 24, was not intended, and ought not to have been sent, to the Medical Committee of that Institution; and, while regretting that it has been so sent, it accepts Dr. Smith's and Mr. Simpson's explanations in respect of themselves.

"That a Memorial be drawn up, circulated among the students for their signatures, and presented to Dr. Smith, the Chairman and Secretary having liberty to alter verbally, but not so as to interfere with the spirit of the following draft:

"SIR,—Circumstances having recently occurred which have led to the severance of your connexion with the Medical School of Charing-cross Hospital, we think we ought to express the regret we feel at so unpleasant and unexpected a termination to your functions as one of our teachers.

"We wish you distinctly to understand, that we had no part in bringing about these changes, and that we feel no sympathy with them now that they are effected."

"That a copy of the above Memorial to Dr. Smith be sent to the 'Medical Times' and 'Lancet,' and advertised.

"That a copy of the Address sent to Dr. Smith be forwarded to the Medical Committee, together with an expression of their regret that they have neglected to answer their last communication to them.

"THOMAS SIMPSON, Chairman."

THE following notice has been placed in the Student's Library by the Medical Committee:—

(Copy.)

"The Committee-Managers of the Medical School have received a communication, dated 2nd June, referring to circumstances which have lately occupied their serious attention.

"Making, on this occasion, every allowance for the misapprehension under

which the communication was written, the Committee state, that their measures are at all times governed by a desire for the welfare of the School, the sound professional instruction of the students, and the just fulfilment of the expectations of the examining bodies by whom the Medical Schools are recognised. And they hereby intimate that, if any students be inclined to complete their studies elsewhere, in either or all of the classes to which they have entered here, they shall be at once free to do so; and there shall be returned to them such an amount of the fees which they have paid, as shall be proportionate to the portion of the lectures unfinished and uncertified in the schedules.

"The production of their schedules will suffice for determining the respective amounts.

(Signed)

"ROBT. J. NEWMAN, Clerk."

"CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL,

"11th June, 1853."